

3. THE VIRASAIVA MOVEMENT: OTHER TEACHERS AND FOLLOWERS

IT has been stated that the Virasaiva movement was essentially a popular movement and that it resulted in a general awakening among the masses. The sayings of Basavanna show the great mind that was at the centre of the movement but that mind could not have done its work if many other minds at the time, had not been in tune with it. The success of the Virasaiva movement was due to the fact that large numbers of men and women were ready to follow Basavanna and fight for their view; there were persons in the following who went even further than the leader. An idea of the state of the people's mind at the time and of the attitude which the new teaching developed can be got from the sayings of certain prominent leaders and followers. There is a large number of such persons. Collections of sayings already published contain the work of over two hundred men and women. There is no doubt that the work of a large number has not come down to us. The recorded sayings of many teachers should also be lying unknown in archives from which the future will have to rescue them. A selection of the sayings of the better known of these saints and sages is here given to indicate the thought content of Virasaiva teaching and the types of personality which it developed.

Prominent among the teachers was Allama Ptabhhu, a contemporary of Basavanna, whose

utterances show